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NSC BRIEFING

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15 NOVEMBER 1955

BRITAIN AND CYPRUS

I. British expect resume talks with Archbishop Makarios soon, but they are still not able to offer major concessions.

A. Governor Harding continuing anti-terrorist measures. Plans shortly make some announcement about economic development.

B. British want ad hoc arrangement to quiet nationalists without breaking down British control.

1. Foreign Office says "dominion status" out of the question, not being considered.

a. Cyprus unready for Commonwealth membership.

b. Commonwealth members would object.

c. Neither Greeks or Cypriots would take it as permanent solution.

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II. Britain still standing on its last offer  
of steps toward internal self-government  
and indefinite postponement of self-  
determination.

A. British see little room to maneuver.

They cite belligerent Turkish atti-  
tude.

B. London sceptical view that prospects  
some agreement have improved.

1. British believe Makarios will  
insist on time limit.

2. Greeks have become a little  
easier on Cyprus issue.

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